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THE GRIZZLY

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF URSINUS COLLEGE

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COLLEGEVILLE, PA.

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Fundraiser aims to raise \$100 million

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Ursinus College is launching a massive fundraising campaign entitled "Promises to Keep" with the goal of raising \$100 million.

The Office for Advancement on campus is heading the fundraiser but is still involving other departments on campus.

Jill Marsteller, senior vice president for advancement, is at the forefront of this campaign. She stated that this came about as part of the strategic plan put in place by late President Bobby Fong along with the other people involved.

According to Marsteller, the campaign has four main pillars. The first one is endowment, which includes scholarships and faculty development.

Second is the Innovation and Discovery Center, which is oft-discussed addition to the science facilities on campus.

Third is enriching the student experience, which is involved with Independent Learning Experiences, studying abroad, fellowships, student teaching, athletics and arts.

Last is the advancement of interdisciplinary centers, such as Center for Science and the Common Good and U-Imagine Center for Integrative and Entrepreneurial Studies.

The Office of Advancement is heading the campaign but many people from different departments are working on it according to Marsteller.

The board, senior cabinet, faculty liaison group, and numerous external volunteer committees

make up the group that is making this campaign possible.

Marsteller said that this campaign is not just about money.

"It is about educating people and creating a culture of philanthropy, just as much as it is raising a certain amount of dollars," Marsteller said.

The campaign is in the "quiet phase," the second of three phases, which means that the campaign is not yet being advertised.

The projected date for Promises to Keep to go public is sometime in 2016 and be closed by 2019, according to Marsteller.

So far, the campaign has raised just under \$40 million dollars and the goal is to get to \$50-\$60 million dollars before going public.

"We hope to fulfill our objectives within the four pillars," Marsteller said in regards to her

hopes for the campaign. "If we go on to hit our targets we will have \$50 million dollars in endowment, a new science facility, and another generation of people who are better educated and more willing to give, because of that education, to their alma mater," said Marsteller.

Joe McGinley, a junior, questioned what the money would be spent on since the campaign has yet to go public and people are starting to ask questions.

McGinley was questioning why tuition was going up when they have fundraised such a massive amount of money.

"I would look to spend money in ways that help differentiate us, in terms of the way we teach people and how we go about learning compared to a typical college," McGinley said when asked how

he would spend the money.

"I think it would be beneficial if we were in some ways able to create programs that allowed students to go about learning in different ways as compared to a typical classroom environment."

McGinley stressed the importance of Ursinus being a small institution and how this money could fund programs that enhance the value of an Ursinus education.

Administration already considers the learning environment when dealing with tuition money, so McGinley wonders if they will consider things like that with this money, too.

For Marsteller and those involved, Promises to Keep is an exciting campaign. The money that is being fundraised is intended to go toward making Ursinus a more unique place for students.

WRITERS WANTED

Lend your voice to The Grizzly

Join us for our weekly news meeting

Mondays,
6:00 p.m.
Ritter Lobby



Photo courtesy of Ursinus College Communications

Students piled into the field house for the Ursinus Job Fair last year. This year, the job fair will be held on February 11.

A trend in tuition costs explains rise this year

A three-part investigation into the cost of an Ursinus education

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The price of tuition will increase by 3.5 percent for the 2015-2016 school year.

This increase follows a recent trend: over the past few years the percent increase has been between about 3 and 3.5 percent.

Tuition really started increasing at a higher rate in the late 1990s and early 2000s because of the creation of new programs and expansion of already existing programs, according to Rick DiFelicianantonio, vice president for enrollment.

"What we spend on programming probably in the last 15 years compared to what we spent in the mid-90s is probably double

because of all that extra programming," he said.

In 1995, when John Strassberger became the president of Ursinus College, there was no theater, dance, neuroscience, or biochemistry majors.

There were no summer research program for students, and no funding for study abroad programs.

All of these majors and programs were added to the college during Strassberger's presidency.

"John was a great believer in the use of theater as a way to create community," DiFelicianantonio said. "Before he was president, the Kaleidoscope was just a rock pile."

Strassberger also worked hard to develop the Summer Fellows

program, a research program where students can work with faculty members during the summer, according to DiFelicianantonio.

"John was completely dead-set on student research as the future for small liberal arts colleges," he said.

However, having a summer research program isn't cheap. The college has to pay faculty in the summer, give students stipends, and pay for research expenses like lab equipment.

"It's a big ticket item, but it comes with a price tag," DiFelicianantonio said.

Another program that contributed to this more rapid increase in tuition cost during the late 1990s

and early 2000s was The Common Intellectual Experience, or CIE.

"CIE is a little more complex in terms of thinking about how it relates to cost," he said. "With CIE you pull people out of their discipline to teach the class, and what that means is that now you need to replace that person who you're pulling out."

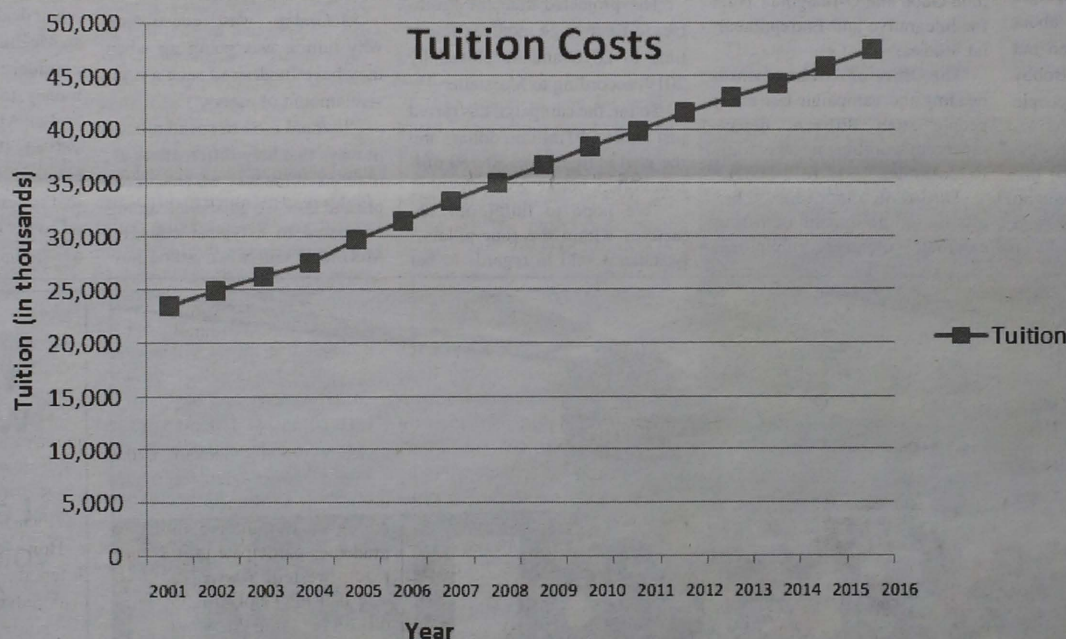
"For the most part, what we have done is expanded the full time faculty over the years in order to staff CIE," DiFelicianantonio said.

The laptop program was created in 2000, and this has also added to the cost of tuition, according to Jim Cooper, associate vice president of finance.

Even if no new programs like CIE or summer research are created, tuition still is increased each year because of both inflation and the cost of maintaining the programs that already exist.

"We are what people call in higher education world would call a tuition-driven school," said Jon Ivec, vice president for finance and administration. "This means that we don't have a lot of other sources of revenue or a large endowment to rely on, so tuition dollars drive whatever the school is going to do."

"Most of the growth in this place I believe has been toward the academic side," he said. "We've grown administration only when it is necessary."



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Staff positions at The Grizzly are open to students of all majors. Contact the adviser for details.

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Wismer on Wheels benefits charities and volunteers

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Wismer on Wheels is a program at Ursinus that donates leftover food from Wismer to the Sisters of Charity located in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

The Sisters of Charity is not only a food pantry, but also a home for women who are victims of abuse. What also makes this charity special is that it's one of the only food pantries that are open at night.

Adelaide Hurlbert is a senior at Ursinus and has been working with the program for three years. "From the start of this school year's first semester to fall break, over 800 pounds were donated to the charity," said Hurlbert.

Many of the people who are involved with this program do it not to just add another item to their resume, but because they actually care about the cause they are supporting.

It is a year-long program, so people who are involved are encouraged to remain committed for the entirety of each semester.

Tyler Winkis, a junior at Ursinus, made it very clear as to why he joined this program. He said, "I love being able to package food and see it being used for a greater good."

Hurlbert said, "I wanted to help out because this is one of the most charitable events".

The two members of the organization have seen growth in this past year. Last year it was just the two of them running the Norristown area delivering the food to the charity.

This year, they had over 40 people sign up to join at the annual activity fair alone.

"Last year was stressful because a lot of people didn't join the program. This year it was fun to meet a bunch of people," Winkis said.

With more people joining the

program, Hurlbert and Winkis have been able to establish a better system and maintain a more manageable schedule.

There are plenty of things that can be learned about Ursinus when helping out Wismer on Wheels. "The area behind the Wismer dining hall is huge. They have a bakery and a lot more going on that people don't see. It's a whole new world," said Hurlbert.

Getting to know the people who work in Wismer has one of the most rewarding experiences while participating with the program, according to both Hurlbert and Winkis.

Wismer on Wheels is a great program that helps a charity while also putting leftover food to use that is not eaten in the dining hall.

The program is open to anyone who would like to join, and the help is always appreciated from both Wismer on Wheels and the Sisters of Charity.

International Perspective

Gaoko exam makes Chinese students come to America

Chinese exchange student discusses his experience with Chinese education

Guanjie Wang

When I came to America, ready to begin my undergraduate study, I spotted a lot of Chinese in the Los Angeles airport. Then, after I landed at my final destination, Philadelphia airport, the phenomenon was the same as it was in Los Angeles.

A lot of Chinese students were talking about their schools, high-schools or universities, majors, courses and so on. Even the U.S. custom officers could speak Chinese.

All of this was unbelievable and totally different from what I had seen four years ago when I first came to America. At that time, there weren't too many Chinese students. Most Asian students were from Korea or Japan but nowadays, even at Ursinus, Chinese seem to dominate the Asian students' ratio.

In my opinion, there is one reason to explain the increasing Chinese students in the U.S.—the Gaokao system. "Gaokao" is the Chinese universities' entrance exam. It is held once a year and more than 20 million high school graduates participate in it. I once read a western newspaper which said that the Gaokao is the most difficult exam in the world.

Consequently, Gaokao's elimination rate is so high that over 45% of the total high school graduates in China do not receive college offers. Because of this, some Chinese students prefer to study abroad rather than squeeze into the "Gaokao army."

The day after I landed in America, I met some Chinese students from Ursinus College and realized that they all had the same thought as I did. Their perspective about studying abroad in U.S. is almost the same as mine.

However, in the last several months, I have asked some of

my American classmates about studying abroad. To my surprise, almost 80% of them had not thought about study abroad or even studying in a different state; 20% of them are only interested in an exchange in another country for a short-term but would never like to participate in a long-term exchange. Right now in China, even families without too much income would like to send their children overseas.

In my opinion, Chinese education is truly suffering, ranking children only by test grade. No matter how kind or honest a student is, if he or she fails to pass any exam, the public will regard him or her as a bad student; this is the shame of Chinese education but because there are so many Chinese people, students must be ranked by their score.

I remember that when I was in grade, 10 I decided to study for the TOEFL, (Test Of English as a Foreign Language). It is a required test for foreign non-English students who want to study in a U.S. or Canadian school. I had my chance to join Gaokao.

However, though studying a different language is much harder than studying my native language, I do not regret what I have done. I feel I am a lucky one for not being a "future Gaokao taker". I have the chance to experience a different country and explore my vision.

Author Bio

Guanjie Wang lives in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China. He is a freshman international student majoring in economics and is a member of the fencing club at Ursinus.



Photo courtesy of Alexis Primavera

Students Rachel Weil, John Thomas and Olivia Tierney help package food at Wismer on Wheels.

Art class works with animal foundation to create art

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Students in Kay Healy's print making class had an exciting opportunity to spend an entire class period with furry four-legged animals to inspire them for their project. Healy, an art professor, took her class to the Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) last semester to have her students interact with the animals there. The hope was that they would connect with an animal there, and then portray that animal in their print.

PAWS is a non-profit organization that aims to rescue homeless, abandoned, or unwanted animals, according to their website. They are the largest no-kill shelter in Philadelphia, which is one of the reasons Healy was attracted to them and began volunteering for them. Healy noticed that many of her students often chose to portray animals in their prints, which made her come up with the idea of taking her students to PAWS.

"I was a volunteer for PAWS," Healy said, "and I've been designing a number of projects with different classes that are collaborative, and I just thought about making a print that would positively affect a community or an organization."

For their class assignment, students had to sketch the animal that they chose and then turn it into a print. Students were

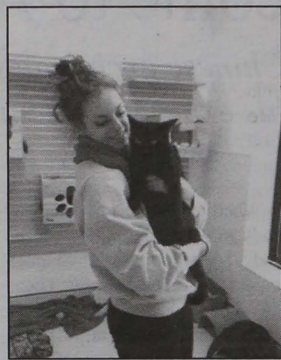


Photo courtesy of Kay Healy
During the fall semester, Professor Kay Healy and her printmaking class designed prints for the animals at the Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).

required to make at least three prints. One of those prints would go to PAWS and would be given to the owner if the animal portrayed was ever adopted, one would go to an exhibit that will be installed in the Myrin Library, and the student could keep the third one. Although they were required to make three, most students ended up making more.

The exhibit in Myrin Library will be in the lobby in the glass showcases. In there will be pictures of students at PAWS, pictures of the animals, and some of the prints students made. The exhibit will be in the showcases from mid-February to mid-March.

Overall, students really enjoyed the experience and the project. Camielle Didier, a senior in the class, said she really enjoyed going to the PAWS location and then transforming that into art.

"I liked how we got to get off campus and see a no-kill shelter in Philly, and I definitely loved getting to see all of the animals and play with them, then use that for my project," Didier said.

"My favorite part was definitely playing with the cats," said Kayla Sallada, a student in the class. "It was so nice to have some one on one animal interaction since we don't get it very much here at school."

As Healy says she expected, some students said there were

definitely some difficult parts of the project. Healy said most of the time when students make art they are making it for themselves. This project was different because students knew their work would be going to an owner if the animal was ever adopted. This added some pressure to the students and made them really think about how they portrayed the animal.

"The most challenging part of the piece was being able to create a piece that captured the spirit of the animal the best," said Olivia Glover, another student in the class. "I wanted PAWS and the new owner of Kitty to be very pleased with my work."

Other than the pressure of giving their work away, students had difficulty accurately depicting the animals' bodies or colors in their prints, too.

"I had to compromise on how detailed I wanted my print to be, while still trying to match the cats as closely as possible," said Megan Hanscom, another student in the class. "They had very distinct patches and stripes so getting the details to register correctly was difficult."

The project overall was popular among the students, especially since most of them made more prints than were required. The opportunity to go off campus and play with animals for a class period and then translate that into a print was a unique experience for them, and one professor Healy says she was happy to have offered to her students.

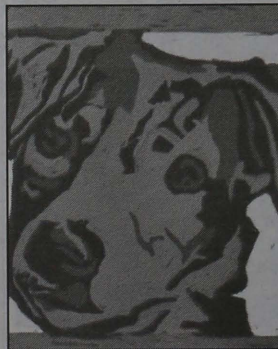


Photo courtesy of Kay Healy

Writing center help expands

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This year, the Center for Writing has added a new form of assistance. The program has taken on the new name of the Center for Writing and Speaking – "Speaking" being the addition. The center is one of the major resources that the campus offers to students to help them with their writing, and now speaking. The focus of the center is no longer just focused on enhancing student's writing, but it is also concentrated on improving all forms of communication.

The addition of helping speech and presentation skills that the center is providing comes from a new trend in the today's society. With modern day communication steering in many directions, the Center for Writing and Speaking looks to help students improve all of their skills.

"The Center for Writing and

Speaking provides an opportunity for students to conference with peer tutors about writing assignments and presentations. Students can work with tutor for up to an hour. Students can come to the Center to develop their writing at all stages of the writing process with any kind of writing assignment- the tutors are trained to help students with brainstorming, outlining, creating thesis statements, refining completed drafts, and everything in between" said Elizabeth Reynolds, a senior writing fellow. "With the addition of speaking to the Center, tutors and fellows can help students communicate in both writing and speech," Reynolds said.

Students are welcome to visit the Center for Writing and Speaking to help them with general rhetorical skills. Effective commu-

See Center on pg. 5

Word on the Street

How do you feel about Ursinus tuition?

"It scares me. Tuition in general scares me. I get a lot of funding from Ursinus and there have still been times when coming back for another year has been potentially not feasible for me. I know that this is a private school, but gosh it's beyond expensive." - Kyle Peterson 2015

"I feel like I wouldn't be here without a scholarship and I think a lot of the services and facilities, dining especially, are very underwhelming." - Connor Moriarty 2017

"I mean I wish it was less. Compared to other colleges though I think it's pretty good. It was one of the cheapest schools I could apply to. I think everyone would wish it was less." - Nate Fritzinger 2018

"It's scary. I wish it didn't increase so much every year like it does. I'm scared for the people who will have to pay 70000 dollars 10 years from now. I think the professors are amazing and I think I've gained a lot from UC, but I'm not sure it's worth the debt I'll have in a year." -Megan Hanscom 2016

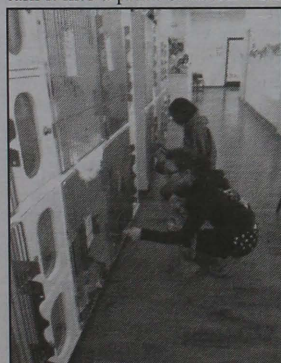


Photo courtesy of Kay Healy

Diversity Monologues event is helping bring UC students together

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If you study at Ursinus College, there is a 75% chance that you are white, and your hometown is likely in Pennsylvania or a bordering state. At face value, it seems like the students of Ursinus are for the most part cut from the same cloth.

The Diversity Monologues is a CIE common event that undoes any preconceptions of the student body and reveals the diversity in inspirational and personal speeches delivered by students. Everyone is unique, everyone has a story.

The Diversity Monologues was initiated by the Bonner program five years ago. Now, UCare and the CIE fellows collaborate with the Bonners to organize this event. Students from every year are free to participate, and this year the organizers are reaching out to the faculty and staff to share their stories as well, according to Nick DiMuzio, a Bonner leader who helps plan the event.

"It's not just a certain type of diversity that we're looking for," said DiMuzio. "It's just an event that spreads awareness about the amazing different types of diversity. It's a really inspiring event because it takes a lot of courage to get up on stage and share your

story." Although the freshman class is required to attend the Monologues because it is a CIE common event, anyone can learn a great deal about their peers from this event and everyone is encouraged to join.

"It's not just a certain type of diversity that we're looking for."

— Nick DiMuzio
Bonner Leader

Alyse Brewer, a sophomore who delivered a monologue last year believes that it is one of her most memorable experiences at Ursinus.

"I didn't realize it was a CIE common event, and that terrified me because I was presenting my life in front of my peers. However, that changed immediately after I performed," said Brewer. "The positivity I received afterwards was overwhelming. I would encourage any student to participate in this truly unique opportunity that often is very eye opening."

Although this event is still young, it has already become a staple to the Ursinus experience and fosters a sense of care understanding in the small community. According to the event description on the Ursinus Website,

"Part of appreciating diversity

and understanding other people's position in life is understanding how others feel given their backgrounds, experiences, and orientations."

While it may be intimidating to share your story with your peers on stage, those who participate are commended and many agree with Brewer that it was a rewarding experience.

The stories that are shared are not limited to race or ethnicity, but they include any aspect of diversity the speaker feels has affected them. According to Sam Ha, another Bonner leader,

"The diversity Monologues is a unique opportunity to both share and experience personal accounts from peers, faculty, and staff about what it is like to be different. Different in the sense of anything—race, gender, emotional issues, sexual orientation, mental capabilities, socioeconomic status, or even just differing thoughts." Furthermore, the monologues are never censored, according to the Ursinus website. The monologues are not meant to make people feel isolated or different.

Students are always encouraged to apply to speak in the event, and can apply by Feb. 6 at 4pm. To apply, email your 3-5 minute monologue to nidimuzio@ursinus.edu. This year the event will be Feb. 18th and 19th.

Center continued from pg. 4

addition of speaking to the center is a huge asset, Reynolds said. Reynolds explained that now courses incorporate all sorts of projects and presentations aside from just writing.

The center can also serve as a spot for study groups, lectures, workshops and more. The director of the Center for Writing and Speaking, Dr. Talia Argondezzi, works to ensure that all writing fellows are prepared to assist students on oral presentations in effective ways. Argondezzi and others who work in the Center look to assist the college's students and faculty in building a strong liberal arts education.

The tutors and fellows of the Center are trained through a semester-long instruction course on communication and tutoring

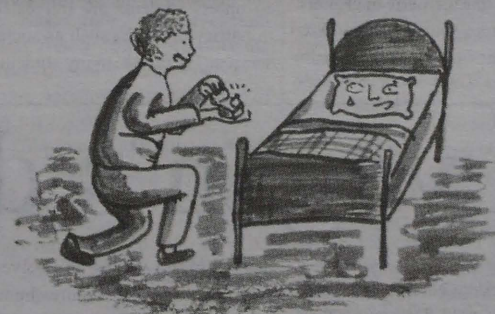
practice. Those who work in the Center are usually trained to help with every aspect of the writing and speaking process. The Center uses reliable academic resources to aid the students seeking guidance. Many of the writing fellows working in the Center are trained to work with instructors for specific classes while others assist students with a wide variety of communication.

"It is exciting that students can now enhance their communication skills in multiple ways with the help of the peer tutors," Reynolds said.

The Center for Writing and Speaking is located in Olin 302 and appointments can be made on the school's website. The hours are Monday through Thursday from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. and Sunday from 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Bear Prints

A new Ursinus comic series by Blaise Laramée



The college student finds true love

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Black History Month Film and Discussion, Unity House, 6:00 p.m.	Study Abroad Application deadline, 5:00 p.m.	Volunteer at Cradles to Crayons, UCARE, 9:00 a.m.	Quiz Night, Lower, 8:30 p.m.	Johnson Matthey info session, Pfahler 208, 12:30 p.m.	Brief Evidence of Heaven book reading, Blackbox Theater, 4:30 p.m.	Job and Internship Fair, Floy Lewis Bakes Center, 12:00 p.m.
Novelist Alena Graedon talk, Blackbox Theater, 7:00 p.m.	Shabbat dinner, Hillel House, 7:00 p.m.			Black History Month discussion, Unity House 6:00 p.m.		

Tuition is a headache for international students

By Niriesa Kalaga
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The price of tuition has caused an uproar among many international students on campus. On the Ursinus website, the cost of tuition between 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 rose significantly. This year's total cost of attendance is \$57,580 with the tuition alone amounting to \$45,890. In 2013, the tuition was \$44,350; which means that it was raised by \$1,540, according to Ursinus' online tuition page. The increases in tuition may have been to improve Ursinus' facilities, but it has definitely caused a stir among many of the international students.

Many international students are asking the same thing: "Why does the tuition keep rising?" The tuition may have risen due to a desire to attract potential students as it did in the year 2000, as an article in the American Enterprise Institute states. It rose 18% in an attempt to boost its appeal.

In response, that year Ursinus received almost 200 more applications than the year before. To sum it up, families associate high price with high quality. Bobby Fong, Ursinus' former President said in an interview from 2014 with Ry Rived that the college also made sure accepted students were getting more "touches" from Ursinus, including more on-campus events for would-be students and more calls to them from faculty members, current students, staff members and even trustees.

That is what makes Ursinus so personable, but it does not really help the financial situation of many International students. Some may not know, but International students are not eligible for financial aid, only merit scholarships mainly. This causes a lot of problems because on the Ursinus page of International Awards, the awards mentioned cannot be given unless students are interested in particular fields, such as social service. Therefore, many students

were upset by this sudden news of an increase in tuition in 2015. Since last year already, the cost of admission has risen, and international students have gotten more wary and afraid of what the future may hold with this increase in tuition.

Younjong Nam, an international sophomore majoring in BCMB, said "I was here a few years ago as a freshman, however, I had to go serve in the military and had economic problems so I had to return to Korea. There weren't many international students when I was a freshman, but from what I heard, there were rumors that international students weren't eligible for merit scholarships.

Now that I'm back, it's hard for me to afford to come here, because the costs have risen a lot so this makes me quite worried." Another international student who comes from Macao said, "I understand that the college needs the funds, but I don't see where it

goes. I think I have a right to see where my money is being used."

In an article on Insider Higher Ed, an interview with our former President Bobby Fong last year informed us that as Ursinus increased its tuition, it raised its discount – Bobby Fong said its discount rate would go up by 2 percent – but it had more money to spend on discounting because of the higher tuition. But the ironic thing international students are finding is that they pay a significant amount more than US residents, yet the discount is not eligible for them. It's just not right.

Being an international student myself, I agree with a lot of the opinions, because I'm going through the same struggles myself.

The stereotype is that all international students are wealthy, but that's not the case more than half the times. They have similar financial situations as residents of the US do, so not all international students have the luxury of paying

the complete cost. Even though some students have a higher financial position, it doesn't mean they take the responsibility of a higher financial burden. The cost of admission not only includes the tuition but also health care. As international students, it is easier to buy health insurance through the college, which is also an additional cost. Student loans are also not eligible for internationals students, which brings along more pressure. An international Chinese student said, "student loans would definitely help me finish my college career."

Of course, it is hard to change government policies, but this rise in tuition will many international students paying a lot more than residents do, mainly due to their limitations of scholarships, and financial aid in general. It is a rising issue among the international students from whom some students now have an uncertain future at Ursinus.

A vegan's defense of hunting

By Max Bicking
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I grew up in a small Pennsylvania town, where almost everyone seemed to be a hunter. In elementary school, my classmates would boast about their father's recent buck kill. My own father is a pacifist, and has never hunted in his life, like the rest of my family. So I was confused when my classmates would speak in terms like "points," and I would wonder why we didn't have school on the first day of the season.

I was well-aware that meat came from animals, but I was confused as to why anyone would want to kill an animal when they could buy meat from a store. I constantly wondered: what is the attraction, the motivation, in tracking and killing any ani-

mal? Why do we, as an evolved race that no longer requires hunting other species to survive, still choose to hunt?

But as I thought about it, especially from an ecological standpoint, it began to make sense: when people hunt for food, they're encouraging ecological consciousness and hyper-local diets.

Now, I'm a vegan. This means I abstain from consuming any animal products—meat, dairy, eggs, gelatin, leather, etc. Since I stopped eating meat, my omnivorous friends have asked me time after weary time, "does it bother you that I'm eating this steak?" or "what if you were stranded on an island and there were pigs, but no vegetables?" And I tell them: I'm fine with the fact that your diet is different from mine. Would I like

more people to be vegans? Sure. But do I think it's realistic to expect everyone to eat the same way? Absolutely not. It's unrealistic to expect that everyone will stop eating meat, let alone cheese, milk, or eggs.

I do have a problem, though, with factory farms and butcheries, where mass dairy and meat production perpetuate a cruel cycle of animal torture. I also have problems with much of the agriculture industry, which breeds genetically modified organisms, sprays crops with harmful pesticides, and often wastes land and food.

Senior biology major Jamie Faselt observes, "many people say that we should all be vegetarians or vegans." According to her, however, "considering the amount of land used for soy pro-

duction and the distance it must travel to reach your table...these aren't always the most sustainable diets."

Additionally, for many hunters, like senior Mark Branca, hunting "is all about tradition." As Branca explained, "one aspect of hunting that is important to me is that it has provided me the opportunity to spend time with and learn more from my father and grandfather," who were both hunters.

When you choose a self-shot deer over a steak from your supermarket's freezer section, you are opting for local meat, versus contributing to the factory farm industry. For the majority of people who consider meat a staple of their diet, hunting is a much more environmentally sustainable option.

Gary E. Varner posits in his excellent book, *In Nature's Interests*, that some hunting is "designed to secure the aggregate welfare of the target species, the integrity of its ecosystem, or both." With declining populations of predators, such as wolves, the rise in population of deer and other commonly hunted animals brings noticeable detrimental effects to the ecosystem. Hunting can provide a counterbalance, thus benefitting one's local ecosystem. It can also have charitable effects. Nearly every animal that Branca kills is donated to needy families through the charity Hunters for the Hungry.

So, until we all have our own organic gardens, hunting can provide a sustainable, ecologically beneficial source of nutritious food.

All-around good season for Ruoss

Gymnastics star performing well so far after recovering from high school ACL tear

Jon Vander Lugt

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This past Sunday, Kaelin Ruoss competed in all four gymnastics events at the team's meet at the University of Pennsylvania.

Normally, that wouldn't be much of a surprise for someone who has competed in top amateur gymnastics events since she was three, but this one did have a particular sense of significance—it was the first time she had done so (and earlier this season marked the first time she had competed at all) following the ACL tear she sustained at the state meet of her junior year of high school.

"I had actually been off all season because I broke my hand at the beginning," she said of her high school season. "It was my first meet back, and it was my last skill of the event—I did my whole meet, and it was the last one."

Then a commit to Division I William and Mary, Ruoss then found herself on the mat thinking that her career was done.

"I just laid there and thought, 'no, I'm never doing gymnastics again,' she went on. "That's what I thought right when I (tore my ACL)."

Her surgery, a process that took pieces of her hamstring and put them in her knee (this doesn't leave her hamstring more vulnerable to injury, just more prone to soreness) took place soon after. The rehab process was a grueling one—she had several appointments with physical therapists each week, on top of the normal schedule of a high-school student.

To make matters worse, her experience with William and Mary in the days and months following was anything but a pleasant one.

"I called (the William and Mary coach) about two days later and told him," Ruoss said. "He was just really short—so at that point I started to lean toward not



Photo courtesy of Alexis Primavera

Freshman Kaelin Ruoss is seen above. Ruoss, a freshman from Lancaster, PA, has been a key performer for the gymnastics team, which is the top-ranked squad in all of Division III.

doing D-I. I wanted to do gymnastics because I love it—not for someone to use me as a number."

"So I worked all summer to get back," she said, "and (the William and Mary coach) was hounding me...I went on my official visit there in October (of 2013) and I had a really bad experience...they just gave me a really bad impression, so I decided not to go there."

After pulling away from William and Mary, Ruoss had difficulty finding other schools. Because of the nature of her injury, other Division I schools understandably required video of her before and after the injury.

Footage from before she tore her ACL would have been no problem—but given the timeline of her tear and the amount of recovery time associated with serious knee injuries, it wouldn't have been feasible for her to get

film to schools until after most kids have already picked their colleges.

So, in her search for schools, she found Ursinus and fell in love right away.

"When I met with Jeff (Scheppers, the Ursinus gymnastics coach), he said, 'you need to take your time and just let it heal,' Ruoss said. "So that was really awesome."

"I love the way that he runs his program," she said. "He's very much about us doing the sport because we love it—we're not just another number to him."

"Yes, he wants to win," she continued, "but first and foremost he wants us to love the sport. That was one of the big selling points here."

The biology major-to-be said that the fact that the school has a solid science program didn't hurt

either. On the team, Ruoss fit in like a glove.

"She's great," senior captain Riley Acton. "She's probably the most talented gymnast that's ever come here, at least certainly in my four years."

"She was a little quiet at first," Acton said. "Once you get to know her, she definitely opens up. She's a really hard worker, and everything you want."

"She's a major player for this program," Scheppers said. "She does more gymnastics at a high level than anybody I've ever had here."

By his estimation, Ruoss is back to performing at around 90% of her peak. Ruoss says she's completely pain-free and shared Scheppers' assessment of

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B-ball teams working without seniors

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Both the men's and women's basketball team are working through the season with a peculiarity to their rosters not often seen at the Division III level—they're experiencing what it is like without any seniors on the roster.

Kevin Small is in his fifteenth season as head coach of the Ursinus men's basketball team, and this is the first season in which he does not have a senior on the roster. Jim Buckley, in his fourteenth year as head of the women's basketball team, has not had a roster without a senior on since his second year here.

"It's a very unique situation," Small said. The men's team experienced the struggle that comes along without having any seniors after starting the season 0-7. They have, however, bounced back with a 7-5 record since that start. Not only are they without any seniors, but they also only have two juniors, one of which is out with an injury.

"At first, it was tough because our team is so young, but I think we have adapted well," said Mark Wonderling, one of the two juniors on the team.

For Caroline Shimrock, a junior co-captain on the women's team, it was a large transition. "The juniors and I had to go from having senior leadership to being the ones who the younger play-

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Last Week's Scores as of Monday, Feb. 2:

W/M Swim (10-0; 6-4)	W/M Track	Gymnastics	Wrestling (4-0 in CC)	M Basketball (7-12)	W Basketball (7-12)
Jan. 31: @ Washington College W: UC: 145, WC: 117 Six events were won by Bears, with Corinne Cappodano and Olivia Tierney snagging two apiece and Amanda Luccock and Maggie Leitz winning the other two. M: UC: 94, WC: 168 Marcus Wagner won the 1000 free and William Benn won the 200 backstroke.	Jan. 31: Patriot Games Invite @ George Mason M: Did not receive team score; Andrew Mackin set school record in the 500, finishing with 1:06.7. W: Did not receive team score; Emily Lamb finished fourth in the 800 with a time of 2:23.	Feb. 1 @ UPenn UC: 190.475, UPenn: 190.900, West Chester 190.725, Cornell: 190.625 Kaelin Ruoss tied fellow Bear Tina Steffenhagen for the meet lead on beam with a 9.775 score. The team again broke the school record for overall score.	Jan 28: UC: 37, Muhlenberg: 10 Jan 31: UC: 32, Merchant Marine: 14 UC: 37; Washington & Lee: 13 UC: 39; McDaniel: 9 Feb. 1: UC: 16, NYU: 23 UC: 28; Stevens: 31	Jan. 27 @ Haverford UC: 63, Haverford: 68 Joseph Lostracco: 24pts, 9reb Jan. 31 @ Gettysburg UC: 72, Gettysburg: 65 Locostracco: 15pts, 8reb Malik Draper: 17 pts, 9reb	Jan. 27 @ Haverford UC: 56, Haverford: 61 Jessica Porada: 15pts, 12reb Jan. 29 vs. Bryn Mawr UC: 84, Bryn Mawr: 19 Porada: 18pts, 8reb Caroline Shimrock: 11pts, 5reb

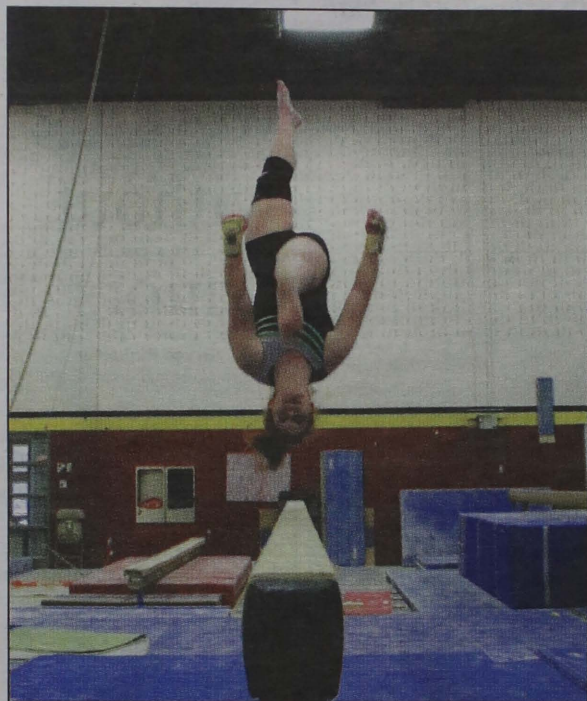


Photo courtesy of Henry Gustafson

Ruoss is seen here on the balance beam in practice Friday, Jan. 30.

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her overall performance. This isn't just because of the recovery associated with the injury—it's because Schepers has to hold her back and keep her from biting off more than she can chew.

"I look at the kids that come in with injuries and water down some of their skills," Schepers said. "It's not worth another ACL tear for a tenth of a point...my goal is to get these kids walking out on their own two feet."

"I get frustrated sometimes, because I know I can do the skills, but I do understand where he's coming from—because I do have another three years," Ruoss said. "I need to make sure my body can make it through them."

Ruoss did pretty well for herself on Sunday finishing with a

total 38.075 (out of 40) in her four events, good for the second-best ranking in all of Division III, but she's keeping her expectations fairly low (for her, anyways) for the remainder of the year—she simply wants to stay healthy and compete in all-around for the remainder of the season, and offered up some advice for athletes should they ever find themselves in a similar situation.

"I would tell them to keep their head up," Ruoss said. "Everything does happen for a reason. At the time it's very, very hard to understand that."

"I don't think that I would have been very happy had I (stayed healthy and) gone to a Division I school," she continued, "so that's why I think I tore my ACL. It led me here—so I'd tell someone to just keep their head up and get through it."

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ers looked for leadership from," Shimrock said.

Small admits that having seniors helps immediately from an execution standpoint in the beginning of the season. Without seniors, it is more difficult for the younger players to look to the older players for advice on how to execute something.

Seniors also understand the league and how each team plays, so they have an advantage over younger players. With only four returning players from last year, the men's team does not have that luxury.

In addition, seniors can show the younger players how things are done and help them along with their development. With such a young team, the coaches had to dedicate much more time on the development of the players and teaching them how to train as college athletes.

The women's team has a slight advantage with four juniors on the roster. The juniors have a lot of experience, which has been helpful with the younger play-

ers, according to Buckley. "But they're still juniors," he said. "It does make a difference, especially when you compete against teams that have a number of seniors."

One year can make a big difference, and Buckley said the jump from junior to senior year is one of the most important. Maturity, strength, and understanding what you are trying to accomplish are just some of the aspects where you can really see that difference, said Buckley.

One advantage of not having any seniors that the players have relished is the chance to step up. "We have all been challenged to step up in different ways in order to bring leadership and stability to the team," said Alyssa Polemeni, co-captain of the women's team.

The men's team has directly seen this happen, especially without any captains, which was a by-product of not having any seniors. "As we got closer and it became much more clear that we really didn't have any natural guy that was going to immediately stand out, it was probably the best thing

that we've done," said Small, referring to the decision to not have any captains this season.

"For us, we have to allow environments to foster proper leadership, but it can't be forced," said Small. "I think this group has done a pretty good job of allowing that and allowing guys like Malik (Draper) to lead in his own way, and Mark to lead in his own way."

Without any seniors, both teams are hoping to build on what they have accomplished this year. Both Wonderling and Shimrock mentioned how their team chemistry will improve over the next year, which will benefit them in the long run.

Small knows that with such a young team come low expectations, but as time goes on those expectations will grow. He is excited to see what the offseason will do for them. Although it has been a challenge at times this season, the players "deserve some praise, because this group has been remarkable," he said.



Photo courtesy of Jon Vander Lugt

Junior Alyssa Polemeni is seen here in the Bears' Jan. 24 matchup against McDaniel. Polemeni is second on the team in points per game, with 9.1 as of Feb. 2. She's pacing the squad in assists, with 4.7 per game.

Upcoming Schedule:

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
W Basketball: vs. Dickinson, 1:00 p.m. M Basketball: vs. Dickinson, 3:00 p.m. W Swimming: @ Bryn Mawr, 1:00 p.m. M&W Track: Colden Invite at Floy Lewis Bakes Center (home), 9:00 a.m. Gymnastics: @ West Chester, 4:00 p.m. Wrestling: @ Gettysburg, 12:00 p.m.				W Basketball: @ Franklin and Marshall, 6:00 p.m. M Basketball: @ Franklin and Marshall, 8:00 p.m.

